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Agenda item 151 (a)

**Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the
United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the
United Nations peacekeeping operations**

Death and disability benefits

**Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and
Budgetary Questions**

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits (A/C.5/54/47). During its consideration of the note, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.
2. The note by the Secretary-General constitutes the tenth quarterly report submitted in accordance with paragraphs 16 and 17 of General Assembly resolution 51/239 A of 17 June 1997, in which the Assembly noted that as at 19 May 1997 a backlog of 564 death and disability claims awaited processing and requested the Secretary-General to submit quarterly reports on the progress made in clearing the backlog.
3. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the note, of the original 564 death and disability claims that were awaiting processing as at 19 May 1997, 19 cases remained as at 31 December 1999. The Advisory Committee was informed that as at 20 February 2000 a further 12 cases had been settled, leaving 7 cases pending out of the original backlogged cases. It was recommended in paragraph 6 of the note that the tenth quarterly progress report be the last report submitted pursuant to paragraphs 16 and 17 of General Assembly resolution 51/239 A.
4. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the quarterly notes provide valuable information to the General Assembly on the status of death and disability claims. Therefore, while there is no need to continue to report on the backlog of cases as at 19 May 1997, the Committee recommends that annual reports be submitted on the status of all death and disability claims.
5. The Advisory Committee is of the view that some of the information contained in the tables annexed to the note is confusing. Upon enquiry regarding the very large total of 4,833 incidents reported, as indicated in table C, the Committee was informed that the total included all incidents reported and the likelihood was that many of them would not result in claims. Some, in fact, did not involve injuries that had been incurred in the performance of duties, however, it is felt that it is important for the database to record all reported incidents. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that a footnote be inserted to the figure for total incidents reported to the effect that the figure includes all reported cases and that not all reported cases will necessarily lead to claims.
6. The Advisory Committee is also of the opinion that the information contained in the tables could be more complete. In this connection, the Committee



recommends that, in the future, the information given on incidents reported should distinguish between accidents, injuries and deaths. Tables should also include information on the total number of claims, the number of claims being processed and the number of claims settled, as well as the dollar amounts involved. In the view of the Committee, some assessment could also be given regarding which incidents are likely to lead to claims.
